

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

6:05p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Sommer made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-5(a)(2) Teacher Negotiations, and §42-46-5(a)(4) Investigation of Alleged Misconduct. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records.

Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also present.

Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Mr. Green called the meeting to order at 7:17p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

Mrs. Cheryl Osborne questioned the status of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Green said the ad-hoc committee and district administrators have completed the initial analysis, but the School Committee needs to meet to review their work, which will take place over the next few weeks.

IV. Recognitions

The following students were recognized and congratulated for their achievement.

- a. Andrew Miner, EGHS, 2013 Heisman Award Winner**
- b. R.I. All-State Recipients: Chorus/Jazz/Band/Orchestra-EGHS**
- c. R.I. Junior All-State Recipients: Band/Chorus/Orchestra-Cole**

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Executive for December 17, 2013**

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes.

- b. Regular and Executive for January 7, 2014**

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the minutes.

VI. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio reported the district is in the process of preparing to pilot PARCC testing.

The school calendar has been revised due to the recent snow day and is posted on the website. As a follow-up to a previous public comment, Dr. Mercurio explained the district has hired Curriculum Coordinator, Dr. Jackie Naspo to engage in curriculum development

and alignment. Dr. Mercurio, Mr. Podraza, and Ms. D'Abbracchio attended a workshop at RIDE regarding NECAP results. The district is in receipt of confidential results for grades 3-8 and grade 11. The public release of results is subject to change, but is scheduled for February 13, 2014. Dr. Mercurio will email the results to the Committee. On February 8th, Johnson High School will hold a summit for new and beginning teachers. Mrs. Patricia Page is scheduled to speak. The district has been asked to host the RIDE educator celebration in the fall. The celebration will take place on September 25, 2014 at Cole. This celebration recognizes administrators of the year, teacher of the year, and paraprofessional of the year.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Appointment- Cheerleading Coach-Cole-Fay Etchingham

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the appointment.

b. Approval of East Greenwich Special Education Advisory Committee By-Laws

There were numerous questions regarding Articles II #3; Article 4 #8 and #11; Article IV #3, and questions regarding the membership size, etc. Dr. Mercurio said the district will seek guidance from RIDE and report back for approval at a future meeting.

c. Second Read/Adoption of Policies

1. Policy #10-210 Internet Safety Policy

This policy had one edit regarding the definition of Internet access. On a motion by Ms. Mark, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the policy.

2. Policy #8435 Waiver to R.I. State Assessment Graduation Requirement Protocol

Revisions were made to the ERC, to align with RIDE regulations.

A flowchart sheet, which lists the process and examples of evidence, was also added.

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the policy.

d. Program of Studies – EGHS 2015

Mr. Podraza discussed the revisions to the Program of Studies for 2015. Areas of discussion included the reduction in credits required for graduation, proposal of new courses including an on-line course, and expanding AP offerings. The Committee asked the Superintendent to report back regarding the logistics of offering of an on-line course. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee unanimously approved the Program of Studies for 2015.

e. Wireless Bid Vendor Approval

On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was approved by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to award the bid to Carousel Industries.

f. Approval of 1:1 Technology

Dr. Mercurio reviewed the 1:1 technology integration proposal. He summarized the goals of implementation, costs, key attributes of the device, preparations, human capacity, professional development,

district preparation, measurement of success, etc. A lengthy discussion followed. Dr. Gifford questioned the amount of professional development and technology support (750 devices to 1 staff member) needed. She asked if the district should pilot the program with a smaller rollout either by grade level or department. This would provide lessons learned for professional development and technology support. Dr. Gifford also discussed the difficulty in finding published research on the results of 1:1 implementation since most research is mixed. Mr. Green asked Dr. Mercurio if he is convinced that 1:1 provides improved academic outcomes for students. Dr. Mercurio said “yes, absolutely.” Ms. Mark discussed concerns about redundancy since many families’ already have computers. Mrs. Records discussed results in New York (using I-Pads) noting there was documented progress in achievement for grades 5-7. Mrs. Winters questioned professional development and whether teachers would “buy in” on 1:1. Mr. Sommer explained that the high school has already piloted MacBooks and I-Pads. Mr. Podraza and numerous EGHS teachers were present and discussed the necessity and benefits of 1:1. Mrs. Izzo and Mrs. Pontarelli said the teachers and students are ready for 1:1. They explained how the library is filled with students using MacBooks and the wait to use the library. Mrs. Healy noted the school has been piloting using carts of I-Pads and MacBooks. On a motion by Mr. Sommer, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted 6-1 (Dr. Gifford opposed) to approve 1:1 technology with the stipulation that the district is counting on receiving the appropriate budget and

culminating with the financial town meeting.

IX. First Read of Amended Policy #10-110 Acceptable Use Policy for Network Resources and Digital Devices

This item was tabled until the February 4, 2014 meeting.

X. Sub Committee Update

All sub committee updates were tabled until the February 4, 2014 meeting.

a. Policy Committee

b. Technology Advisory Committee

c. Mental Health Subcommittee

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Records, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 10:03p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY